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THE PETITION AND PRO testation of twelve Bishops for which they were accused of High Treason by the House of Commons and Committed by the Lords to the Blacke Rod.



That whereas the Petitioners are called upon by severall, and respective writs, under great penalties to attend in Parliament, and have a cleare and indubitable right to vote in Billes, and all other matters whatsoever debated in Parliament, by the ancient customes, lawes and Statutes, of this Realme, and are to be protected by your Majesty quietly to attend that great service.

They humbly remonstrate and protest before God, your Maiesly and the noble Peeres now assembled in Parliament, that as they have an indubitable right to sit and vote in the House of Lords, so they, if they may be protected from force & violence, are most ready & willing to performe that duty accordingly, & that they do abhominat all actions and opinions tending to Popery, or any inclination to the Malignant party, or any other side and party whatsoever, to the which their own reasons & consciences shall not adhere. But whereas they have been at severall times violently menaced, affronted, & assaulted by multitudes of people, in comming to performe their service to that Honourable House, and lately chased away and put in danger of their lives, and can find no redresse or protection upon sundry complaints made to both Houses in that particular. They likewise protest before your Maiesly and that noble House of Peeres, and saving to themselves all their rights and interests of sitting and voting in your house at other times, they dare not sit to vote in the House of Peeres unlessse your Maiesly shall further them from all affronts, indignities and danger in the premises.

Lastly, whereas their feares are not built upon fancies and concepts, but upon such grounds & objects as may well terrifie men of great resolution and much constancy, they doe in all humillity and duty protest before your Maiesly and the Peeres of this most honourable House of Parliament, against all votes, resolutions and determinations, and that they are in themselves nul, and of no effect, which in their absence the twenty seven of *December 1641.* have already passed, and likewise against all such as shall hereafter passe in that most Honourable assembly, during such time of their forced and violent absence from the said most honourable House.

Not denying, but if their absenting of themselves were willfull and voluntary, that most noble House might proceed in all these premises, their absence and Protestation not withstanding.

And humbly beseecheth your most excellent Maiesly to Command the Lords of the House of Peeres to enter this their Petition and protestation in their Records.

They will ever pray God to blesse and preserve &c.

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